

Margaret Roberts THATCHER**UNITED KINGDOM***Prime Minister (since May 1979)**Addressed as: Prime Minister*

Margaret Thatcher is the first woman to serve as prime minister of a European country. In 1987 she became the first British prime minister in 150 years to be elected to a third successive term in office. She is a self-proclaimed crusader for free enterprise, free trade, and economic revival. She has frequently declared her support for a strong NATO, an independent British nuclear deterrent, and the need for balanced and verifiable arms control measures. Thatcher met with President George Bush in Bermuda in April 1990; in June she traveled to the Soviet Union, where she held discussions with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.



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The daughter of a grocer and a seamstress, Thatcher was born on 13 October 1925. She won a scholarship to Somerville College, Oxford, and graduated with honors in chemistry in 1947. While there she was president of the University Conservative Association. After working for four years as a research chemist in an industrial firm, she began to study law, specializing in tax legislation and patents. A member of Parliament since 1959, Thatcher held several important government and party positions before becoming Prime Minister, including those of Secretary of State for Education and Science (1970-74) and shadow deputy chancellor of the exchequer (1974-75). She has been leader of the Conservative Party since 1975.

Thatcher enjoys listening to Bach, Beethoven, and Chopin and reading detective stories, historical novels, and biographies. Her husband, Denis, is a retired oil company executive. The Thatchers have twins, Mark and Carol.

20 June 1990